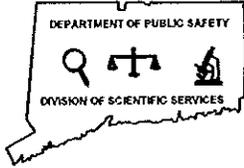




6354

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henlon
Chief of Staff

February 19, 2009

Rep. Steve Fontana, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, Co-Chairman
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6354 AN ACT REGULATING SURETY BAIL BOND AGENTS

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

The Department of Public Safety has statutory authority for licensing and regulating professional bondsmen under Chapter 553 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Under a separate statutory scheme, surety bail bondsmen are regulated by the Insurance Commissioner. This proposed bill would provide to the office of the Insurance Commissioner a much needed strengthened regulatory authority over the surety bail bondsmen. Since the professional bondsmen and the surety bondsmen are in business competition in Connecticut courts, it is important that both entities are subject to strong oversight. The Department of Public Safety supports this legislative effort.

Sincerely,

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety